



## ABOUT THE PRESERVE PROPERTY

Waypoysset Preserve is one of the many existing land trusts in Rhode Island that have been set aside for preservation due to their natural, ecological, and/or historical significance.

The main part of the 28-acre preserve runs just north of Narrows Road in Bristol and extends to Mt. Hope Bay at the confluence of the Kickemuit River. The main trail is most easily accessed from the parking area along the shoreline of Mt. Hope Bay but can also be accessed from Narrows Road, just east of its intersection with Oak St. The main trail traverses the eastern half of the property through an open field, extends over a small stream, and continues into the woods that occupy most of the preserve.

The property was purchased by the Town of Bristol in 1999 and placed in the trust. As further described in this pamphlet, the preserve supports a variety of indigenous plants and animals within its boundaries and is an excellent place to observe wildlife across a variety of habitats.



## HISTORY OF THE AREA

The property has a rich documented history and has been recognized as a historical heritage site.

Records show that in 1632, a trading post was established on the west bank of the Kickemuit River near the location of the eastern trailhead. In the early seventeenth century, the native population along the shores of Mt. Hope Bay was extremely dense and consisted mostly of members of the Pokanoket Indian tribe. For many more generations, Native Americans would continue to live on the land, grow crops, and fish in the bay.

In 1675, at the outset of King Philip's War, Colonel Benjamin Church ordered his troops to build a fort in the Touisset portion of Warren across Mt. Hope Bay. Colonel Church was a military leader and led a group of soldiers who were the historic predecessor of the United States Army Rangers. The first military company officially commissioned as Rangers were New England soldiers fighting in King Philip's War under Colonel Church.

In 1745, the Preserve land came under the ownership of the Coggeshall family, who owned it until 1892. The Paine and Anthony families owned the land and lived in the area from 1892 until 1925, until it once again was owned by the Coggeshall family. Between 1925 and 1999 the property was owned by a series of private families.

The land was purchased by the Town of Bristol in 1999 to protect the property from future development. Subsequently, an archaeological survey found artifacts and evidence of the site being used by Native Americans for the previous 7,000 years.



## FAUNA/FLORA

Waypoyset Preserve and its surroundings are home to many animals, including different types of small mammals and birds. Small mammals in the wooded and open field area of the property include Eastern Cottontail rabbits, Gray Squirrels and Eastern Chipmunks.

Birds such as the American Robin, Red-Winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, and Gray Catbird are common. Members of the woodpecker and warbler families, such as the Northern Flicker and Yellow Warbler, can also be observed. Raptors such as Redtail, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and Osprey can be found in the area, as can shorebirds like Great Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, and the much smaller Killdeer.

Vegetation on the property includes Milkweed which can be found in the field area and is an extremely important "host" plant for Monarch butterflies which are proposed to be listed as a federally threatened species. Female Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the Milkweed leaves which also serve as food for hatching larva.



The rich ecological density found at the Waypoyset Preserve property is a result of the variety of habitats Waypoyset has to offer. One can easily learn about the ecology of woodlands, wetlands, estuaries, marshes, sandbars, making it a truly unique place to study and observe.



## THE PROJECT

The trail improvement effort in 2020 was an Eagle Scout project intended to benefit the local community in multiple ways. Primarily, the project improved a foot trail through the Waypoyset Preserve property.

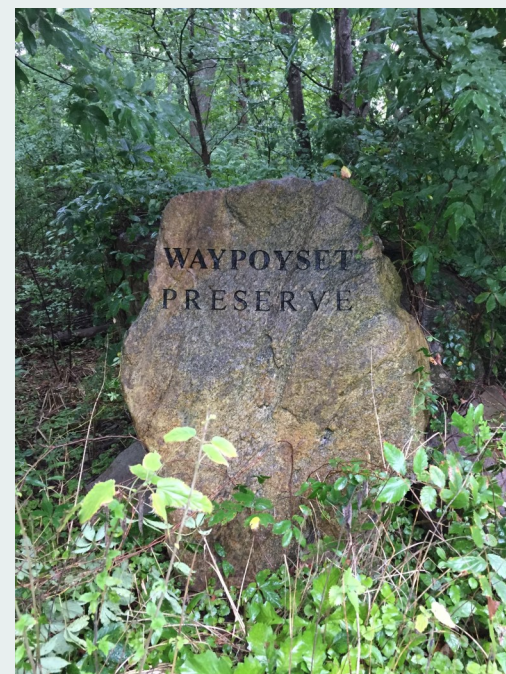
- Significant overgrowth on the 1,300-foot trail was cut back to allow for comfortable passage.
- The mid-property stream crossing was re-established for easier passage by replacing rocks to cross the stream.
- Over 54.5 pounds of unsightly litter and debris was removed.
- Volunteers and scouts from Bristol Boy Scout Troop 2 put in a total of over 170 hours, including planning and execution of the project.

Local residents can now enjoy a nature walk through the woods to the shore of the Kickemuit River in a much safer manner than walking along Narrows Road where there is no sidewalk.

# Waypoyset Preserve Trust Trail

Narrows Road

Bristol, Rhode Island



Trail Improvement Project  
Eagle Scout Project  
Benjamin Harley  
Bristol Boy Scout Troop 2  
2020